



■ Rough riders - Canadian Catharine Pendrel leads the women's race at Hadleigh Castle Country Park

Picture: ANNA LUKALA BA47689_083

1,300 HOMES ON OUR GREEN BELT

New village planned for farmland near Pitsea will include school and shops

A NEW village with as many as 1,300 homes, shops and a primary school could be built on farmland near Pitsea.

Nottinghamshire County Council bought land at Little Chalvedon Hall, off Pound Lane between Bowers Gifford and Pitsea, for £4.2million in January.

Bosses at Nottingham want to build

By JON AUSTIN jon.austin@nqj.com

the homes to raise cash for the council's pension fund.

However, Stephen Horgan, councillor in charge of regeneration, said the Tory administration did not support the scheme as it did not want to see any major development on green belt.

FULL STORY PAGE 5

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PUPILS and teachers marked the end of their summer camp with a colourful celebration.

More than 175 Year 6 pupils from Woodlands School, in Taly End, Basildon, let off a sea of helium balloons after

spending a week at their new school's summer camp.

The youngsters got to try out activities involving maths,

literacy, art, music and PE.

Picture:
PAUL WATSON
BA47510_09

and to take some further information. "Also, if you were in the Delhi Road area at the time and saw anything suspicious, please get in contact."

The burglary happened between 2am and 11am on Tuesday, July 26. Call 0300 3334444 if you can help.

1,300 homes planned for green belt land

UP to 1,300 houses, as well as shops and even a school, could be built on green belt land in Pitsea, if plans are approved.

Last month the Echo revealed how Nottinghamshire County Council had paid £4.2million for 126 acres of farmland off Pound Lane, between Pitsea and Bowers Gifford.

Now more details over the extent of the plans have been revealed.

Meridian Land, agent for Nottinghamshire County Council's pension trust, which says it has bought the site called Little Chalvedon Hall, as a long term investment has now met with councillors to discuss its plans.

But Stephen Horgan, councillor in charge of regeneration at Basildon Council

By JON AUSTIN
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moved to allay residents fears over the scheme, saying the proposals do not have the support of the council, which opposes any green belt development.

He said: "What they are proposing would be a new village with 1,300 homes, it would need its own primary school and shopping centre, and access roads."

Mr Horgan stressed the council's ruling Tory administration has no plans for releasing any more green belt in the borough for development, so the proposals are unlikely to get their support.

He said: "We are still developing the local development framework, which should go out for consultation towards

the end of the year or early next year.

"We will have to allocate some sites for housing, but it is this administration's policy to resist any development on green belt. If this site is not released from the green belt then there will be no support for what they are proposing."

Mr Horgan said he felt the way Nottinghamshire County Council had approached the development was highly unusual and "risky" in financial terms.

He said: "It is strange they did not approach councillors before buying this land. What they are talking about is a strategic site, so it would benefit them to know what the councillors' position was likely to be. All Meridian Land did was have one meeting with officers.

"It is not as if they have just

taken an option on the site and put forward proposals, they have actually already bought the land, and if it is not released from the green belt, it would mean a loss for the pension fund.

"On the other hand if the development were permitted, it would make a significant amount of money, but there are no guarantees, so it would appear to be a very risky investment."

Mr Horgan has also stressed to residents opposed to the scheme that just because a landowner put forward plans, they were unlikely to be developed without the support of the council.

Residents have raised fears about protecting the land from development and the issue has been raised at North Benfleet and Bowers Gifford Parish Council meetings.



■ Stephen Horgan – says Basildon Council will not support development of green belt sites

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